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MEDIA ADVISORY

STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT STARTS POSTING INFLUENZA REPORT

INDIANAPOLIS---The Indiana State Department of Health has started posting a weekly influenza (flu) activity report online at: www.in.gov/flu. This report includes general information on flu activity based on surveillance across the state, but will NOT include flu case counts at either the state or the county level.

During a typical flu season, most flu vaccine is ordered directly from the manufacturers by private health care providers, pharmacies, and local health departments. The State Health Department only orders flu vaccine for local health departments and Vaccines for Children providers to use in vaccinating children who are uninsured, underinsured, or eligible for Medicaid.

Vaccines for Children is a federal program that provides eligible children all recommended vaccines at no cost. For more information, go to: www.in.gov/isdh/17203.htm.

The first report from the 2010-2011 flu season (week 40) has been posted at www.in.gov/flu and can be found on the "News and Outreach" page. Each Wednesday afternoon during the 2010-2011 flu season a new report will be posted on this site.

The State Health Department's flu Website (www.in.gov/flu) has been updated with new information for the 2010-2011 flu season, and has been redesigned since the 2009 H1N1 flu pandemic.

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